

# Indiana House of Representatives

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## News and Information

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **KLINKER BILL WILL INCREASE PUNISHMENT FOR VOYEURS**

INDIANAPOLIS -- House Bill 1099, legislation coauthored by State Rep. Sheila Klinker (D-Lafayette) passed out of the House today by a vote of 92 - 0. The bill increases the penalty for voyeurism for repeat offenders, making it a Class D felony instead of a Class B misdemeanor.

This legislation was partly inspired by the experiences of Hannah Arbuckle, a resident of Indianapolis. In 2003, Robert Braun, a convicted rapist and voyeur, began peeping into Arbuckle's home. The police eventually began staking out Arbuckle's home, but were unable to catch Braun. One night, Arbuckle saw Braun standing on her front porch. She decided enough was enough. When Arbuckle confronted Braun, he ran to his truck and drove off. Arbuckle chased after him, jumped into the bed of his pick-up truck and with her cell phone called the police. The police were able to locate the pick-up truck and they arrested Braun.

While searching the pick-up truck, the police found several items that led them to believe that if Braun had not been caught, he would have tried to sexually assault Arbuckle.

"Voyeurism is a gateway crime," said Klinker. "Many people who start out as Peeping Toms will later commit much more severe crimes. We need to punish repeat voyeurism for the serious crime that it really is."

A Class B misdemeanor conviction can result in 6 months jail time and a fine of \$1,000. But people convicted of voyeurism frequently do not face any jail time in Indiana. A Class D felony conviction is punishable by incarceration for 6 months to 3 years, depending upon mitigating circumstances.

"I want to make sure that Hoosiers feel safe," said Klinker. "I think the passage of this bill will allow people in Indiana to feel more secure."

House Bill 1099 now moves to the Senate for further consideration.